UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1994/68
7 June 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994
New York, 27 June-29 July 1994
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda*

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

# Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

SUMMARY

At its fourteenth session, the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) reviewed the work accomplished by the Institute during the second year of the biennium 1992-1993. In examining what role INSTRAW might play post-Beijing, information was sought on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) merger in order to enable the Board to determine new directives and the future thrust of INSTRAW programmes. The Board also examined the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1994-1995, which it adopted as amended.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken and results achieved. It also expressed its appreciation to the Director and staff of INSTRAW for the fact that, despite the uncertain situation facing the Institute, the approved work programme for the biennium had been implemented. The Board strongly endorsed increasing the cooperation between INSTRAW and academic institutions. It requested all its members to assist in widely disseminating the INSTRAW Gender Training Portfolio on Women in Development and computer models to mainstream academic institutions and policy makers. It further requested that, in view of the forthcoming global conferences being organized by the United Nations, efforts be made to improve communication and increase the availability of information on all aspects of women and development issues.

* E/1994/100.

The Board, in reviewing the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger, expressed the view that the merger should be conceived as coordinating and integrating the activities of INSTRAW and UNIFEM in order to contribute to achieving a stronger, more unified and more visible programme for the advancement of women within the United Nations system as a whole. The Board recommended that the issue of governance related to the proposed integration of both institutions be given special attention so as to ensure the political visibility of their research, training and operational activities.

The Board emphasized that research, training and information will be crucial elements of the strategic action needed to implement the Platform for Action that would emanate from the Fourth World Conference on Women. It noted that the conceptual framework of both former and current INSTRAW work programmes were in accordance with the draft Platform for Action (E/1994/27, chap. I, resolution 10, annex). The Board stressed that future research, training and information activities of INSTRAW should continue to develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote gender-related analysis and programmes that contributed to the advancement of women. The Board emphasized that bringing women-related issues into the mainstream of the development process should change in a fundamental way the nature of that process, which ought to centre on the needs and aspirations of all human beings.

The Board welcomed the submission of the programme of activities for the entire biennium 1994-1995 in view of the crucial role that the INSTRAW mandate on research and training must play in the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and in the follow-up to that Conference. In view of that particular role, the Board made a number of amendments in order to strengthen the INSTRAW contribution to Conference preparations at the global, regional and national levels. In order to ensure the maximum utilization of available resources, the Board requested the INSTRAW management to coordinate its proposed activities with UNIFEM whenever possible, particularly in the subprogramme related to information, communication and documentation. It expressed its readiness to contribute to the efforts under way to create a better interaction among INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the regional commissions, and recommended that a consultative meeting of those entities and bodies be convened.

The Board made a strong appeal to donor countries to maintain and increase their levels of contributions to the research and training activities of INSTRAW, irrespective of future institutional arrangements.

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# I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## Decisions adopted by the Board

1. The decisions set out in the paragraphs below, which were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) at its fourteenth session, are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

### 1. Implementation of the work programme for 1993: progress report on the Institute

2. The Board expressed satisfaction with the work programme implemented during 1993 as well as with the format of the progress report, which had provided more substantive information in response to the request of the Board at its thirteenth session.

3. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Director and staff of INSTRAW for the achievements of programmed outputs despite the uncertain situation facing the Institute.

4. The Board agreed that a continuation of INSTRAW activities in the field of statistics, including the activities related to the publication of the second edition of The World's Women and the reflection of the role of women in the informal sector in the System of National Accounts should be part of the Institute's activities in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

5. The Board recommended that the programme related to women farmers in eastern and central Europe be reformulated into a more comprehensive programme related to the position of women in countries whose economies were in transition to a market economy.

6. The Board strongly endorsed increasing the cooperation between INSTRAW and academic institutions. It requested all its members to assist in widely disseminating the INSTRAW Gender Training Portfolio on Women in Development to mainstream academic institutions. Efforts should also be intensified to widely disseminate the computer models to policy makers.

7. The Board recommended that the work on the typology of credit programmes for women continue seeking an active cooperation on the part of international and regional develop banks, financial institutions and bilateral donors.

8. The Board requested that efforts be made to increase communication and information on all aspects of women and development issues in view of the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

9. The Board noted with satisfaction the increased cooperation between INSTRAW and both mainstream and non-governmental institutions in the host country.

## 2. Role of INSTRAW in research and training - post Beijing

### (a) Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger

10. After reviewing the documents and recommendations related to the proposed merger of INSTRAW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Board recommended that, in the continuation of the process, the caveats contained in the report of the Task Force on INSTRAW/UNIFEM (E/1993/82, annex) should be taken into account. The Board pointed out that the caveats paid special attention to the need for a proper analysis of the legal, financial and administrative implications of, and a time-frame for, the proposed merger, as well as how to optimize the use of INSTRAW premises in the Dominican Republic for research and training for the advancement of women.

11. The Board expressed its view that the proposed merger should be conceived as coordinating and integrating the activities of INSTRAW and UNIFEM in order to contribute to achieving a stronger, more unified and more visible programme for the advancement of women within the United Nations system as a whole, taking into account the specific tasks and structure of both institutions.

12. In the light of General Assembly resolution 48/111 (operative paragraph 2), the Board expressed its readiness to contribute to efforts for a better interaction among INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the regional commissions. With that purpose in mind, the Board recommended that a consultative meeting of those entities and bodies be convened to determine the lines of integration and interaction to be established amongst them prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

13. Taking note of the ongoing efforts to stimulate the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women, the Board recommended that the issue of governance related to the proposed integration of INSTRAW and UNIFEM be given special attention so as to ensure the political visibility of research, training, information and operational activities for the advancement of women.

14. The Board expressed the view that some core funding from the regular United Nations programme budget should be considered in the future as a means of ensuring a continued strengthening of research, training and information activities in order to better assist women in meeting new challenges and advancing in new directions.

15. The Board advised that any decision taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the question of integrating INSTRAW and UNIFEM should take into account their activities in relation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in such a way that those activities would not be interrupted.

16. In order to secure the monitoring of the process of integration, the Board requested its President and the members of the former task force on the merger to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours.

(b) New directives and future thrusts of INSTRAW programmes

17. The Board noted that the conceptual framework of former and current INSTRAW work programmes were in accordance with the draft Platform for Action considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/1994/27, chap. I, resolution 10, annex).

18. The Board emphasized that research, training and information remained crucial to the strategic action needed to implement the Platform for Action that would emanate from the Fourth World Conference on Women.

19. The Board reiterated that every effort should be made to take part in and provide support for the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

20. The Board recommended that special efforts be made to present the work of INSTRAW to the broadest possible constituency in the preparatory process of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

21. The Board stressed that future research, training and information activities should continue to develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote gender-related analysis and programmes that contributed to the advancement of women.

22. The Board stressed that bringing women-related issues into the mainstream of the development process should change in a fundamental way the nature of that process, which ought to centre to a greater degree on the needs and aspirations of all human beings.

23. The Board emphasized that future research and training efforts should be geared to making a meaningful contribution to discussions on mainstream development issues, such as structural adjustment, human development, institution-building and the transition to market-economies so as to contribute to conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches.

24. The Board emphasized that the Institute should continue its efforts to develop innovative training packages in identified areas of concern based on the main themes of INSTRAW research so as to support training programmes world wide.

25. The Board stressed that networking with focal points, national machineries, mainstream institutions and non-governmental organizations should continue to be the central operational principle of integrated programmes. The widest possible outreach of results should be secured in cooperation with the communication of non-governmental organizations.

26. The Board affirmed that information and communication remained crucial for disseminating information on women and development issues world wide.

### 3. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1994-1995

27. The Board welcomed the submission of the programme of activities for the entire biennium 1994-1995 in view of the crucial role that the INSTRAW mandate on research and training must play in the preparation of and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. In view of that particular role, the Board drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council to a number of amendments made to the proposed programme of activities and programme budget, which would strengthen the process of preparation for the Conference at the global, regional and national levels.

28. Those amendments had been made on the understanding that established overall budget estimates would not be exceeded. However, the Board especially requested the Comptroller that while allocating funds for the year 1994, necessary flexibility be exercised in the issuance of allotments in order to facilitate the task of the Director of the Institute in undertaking preparatory actions for the Fourth World Conference on Women. In particular, if additional requirements arose during 1994, those should be authorized within the overall ceiling of the approved budget proposal.

29. With a view to ensuring the maximum utilization of available resources, the Board requested INSTRAW management to coordinate its proposed activities with UNIFEM whenever possible, particularly in the subprogramme related to information, communication and documentation. Such programme coordination should also include other entities within and outside the United Nations system.

30. The Board made a strong appeal to donor countries to maintain and increase their levels of contributions to the research and training activities of the Institute, irrespective of future institutional arrangements.

31. In relation to the programme on advisory assistance and training, the Board advised that that programme be assigned a preparatory function for the Fourth World Conference on Women and also recommended that its resources be used to organize a workshop on women, communication and the media at the non-governmental organization forum at the Conference.

32. All programmes related to research and training in statistics should continue to be closely coordinated with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and UNIFEM in order to make maximum use of existing resources.

33. The Board recommended that the programme related to women, the management of natural resources and the environment be coordinated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Bank projects and focus on identified knowledge gaps.

34. The Board authorized INSTRAW management to meet the request of the Government of Namibia that it organize a training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation. The Board recommended that efforts be made to meet complementary financing from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United

Nations Secretariat. The Board also recommended that modest funds be allocated to securing inter-agency cooperation and policy coordination in that field.

35. The Board recommended that the subprogramme on information, communication and documentation be implemented in close cooperation with UNIFEM. Some innovative solutions on public information policy should be sought, including in-kind contributions to secure translations and a wide dissemination of public information material. The Board recommended that the maximum use of INSTRAW printing facilities be considered by both INSTRAW and UNIFEM.

36. Periodic publications should reflect global programmes of the United Nations, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Full cooperation with INSTRAW focal points should be sought.

37. In the light of the Board recommendations on the proposed INSTRAW/UNIFEM merger (agenda item 5 (a)), the Board recommended that appropriate resources be made available for both its involvement in the process of integration and the activities of the Strategic Planning Committee.

38. The Board requested that the INSTRAW management make some provision within travel allocations for the participation of the President of the Board and members of INSTRAW staff at the regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the Conference itself.

39. The Board recommended that the subprogramme on research and training and the empowerment of women be reformulated so as to accommodate consultative meetings on interaction with institutions that focus on women's issues, including the regional commissions. Output 1 was to be completed during the first three quarters of 1994. Prior to implementation, that output should be reviewed in order to avoid possible duplication.

40. The Board recommended that the programme on gender impact analysis of credit projects focus on the impact on women and development, taking into account previous INSTRAW studies and making use of existing studies and experiences, which might involve not only a reduction in resource requirements but more importantly a more effective use of those analyses and experiences.

41. As to the programme on the promotion of women and development studies, the Board recommended that one of the regional seminars be held in the Arab region in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and further requested that the necessary redeployment of resources be ensured.

42. The Board recommended that the second phase of the programme on the promotion of women in agriculture in transitional East European countries be reformulated so as to include issues related to economic transition and its effects on women in various countries and regions. The Board urged that allocated resources be used for programme reformulation and that additional funding be sought.

43. The Board recommended that regular public information activities focus on adequately presenting INSTRAW achievements in order to enhance its visibility throughout the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and during the Conference itself. As for bibliographical systems, the Board recommended that, before taking up that programme, an overview be made of existing database systems within and outside the United Nations and that special inquiries be made into the accessibility of those systems.

44. The Board expressed its serious concern at the considerable increase in the rent of its support office in New York. It requested the representative of the Secretary-General to look into the matter with a view to guaranteeing that the most favourable treatment be accorded to women's programmes within the United Nations and to report back to the Board.

45. Having carefully reviewed the proposals of the special programmes, the Board appealed to prospective donors to provide financial support. A special appeal was made to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support the programme on women and new and renewable sources of energy.

### 4. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute

46. The Board approved the nomination of two new focal points, the Centre de recherche, de documentation et d'information sur la femme in Tunisia and the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales del Departamento de Sociología of the University of Uruguay.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1993: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE

47. In considering item 4 of the agenda, the Board had before it a report entitled "Implementation of the work programme for 1993: progress report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW): report of the Director of the Institute" (INSTRAW/BT/1994/R.2).

48. The Acting Director introduced the report. She commended the work accomplished by the former Director and the Chief of the Research and Training Unit during the period under review and particularly acknowledged their efforts to maintain the level of financial contributions to INSTRAW. She then outlined the progress made in the five major research programmes. She highlighted the INSTRAW methodological study on female migration and noted its relevance to the World Summit for Social Development as well as the importance of developing a typology of credit programmes that could contribute to promoting small, medium and family entrepreneurship throughout the world. She referred to the two project proposals that had been submitted to GEF for funding and to the development of new gender training materials produced by INSTRAW. She stressed the need for a wider promotion of INSTRAW work and dissemination of its results, in which the members of the Board could play an important role.

49. The Board commended the secretariat of the Board and the staff of INSTRAW for having produced a progress report that was well organized, concise and informative. They acknowledged that the suggestions made by the Board at its thirteenth session had been reflected in the presentation of the report. Similarly, the Board unanimously expressed its satisfaction with the work done by the Institute during the period under review; it officially recognized the contributions and work of the previous Director and suggested that a formal letter of appreciation be sent to her.

50. Referring to the comment of the Acting Director of INSTRAW on the promotion and dissemination of INSTRAW publications and training materials, the Board requested the INSTRAW secretariat to prepare and present to it at its fifteenth session a paper outlining a distribution scheme of INSTRAW research outputs and studies that would result in a greater accessibility and visibility for INSTRAW work. Various possibilities for a wider dissemination should be explored, including the use of INSTRAW focal points and well-known commercial publishing companies. One Board member indicated that another potential channel for disseminating information on INSTRAW and its work could be regional/subregional training seminars, such as the ones conducted during the period under review. Another suggested that the Institute consider disseminating information on INSTRAW itself through television networks.

51. Clarifications were sought on the focus of INSTRAW research and evaluation methodologies. It was explained that INSTRAW research programmes went beyond fact-finding exercises and aimed to develop new methodologies that could be applied at the country level. The Board was informed that several approaches had been developed and applied in evaluating INSTRAW training activities. For example, evaluation for the training seminars on water and energy included both pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires and monitoring six months to one year after completion of the training seminars. Another approach was applied in the statistics programme by means of a follow-up seminar at the regional level that brought together participants from previously organized training seminars held at the national level in the region, such as the one conducted in Asia (Japan, 8-25 March 1994).

52. Concerning the migration study, one Board member suggested extending the study to evaluate the consequences of a specific migration in the Caribbean for some of its receiving countries and to measure its impact on the socio-economic situation of those countries. Similarly, another member requested that women's migration in Europe and other regions due to wars and economic crises be analysed, since the trafficking of women was one of its major consequences.

53. INSTRAW was congratulated on its substantive inputs into the second edition of The World's Women, which was being prepared as one of the main documents for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and was especially praised for its contribution on elderly women. In that connection, the representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat informed the Board that the cooperation between INSTRAW and the Statistical Division had been most beneficial and had resulted in the mutual strengthening of the programmes of both bodies. She also referred to the long-standing collaboration of the Statistical Division with INSTRAW in evaluating women's work, a task that could

not be performed solely on the basis of existing labour-force and national accounts statistics.

54. One Board member requested further clarification on the status of the planned training workshop for women farmers in transitional European countries. It was explained that the workshop had been postponed for reasons beyond the control of INSTRAW but that assurances had been made that a training workshop on gender issues would take place in 1994. The representatives of ESCAP and ECA requested the Board to consider expanding that programme not only to focus on agriculture but also to analyse other problems that women were facing in countries in transition world wide, such as those relating to economic and social matters. In that connection, speaking on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Acting Director said that 6 of the 22 countries in transition in the ECE region were central Asian republics. Very few such countries had any machinery for dealing with the problems of transition and were in need of assistance in considering women's issues.

55. The UNDP representative informed the Board that UNDP was currently developing national capacity programmes for six Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women. She pointed out that one of its major difficulties was the lack of reliable data on women.

56. Turning to the communications programme, one Board member expressed concern at the difficulty of using the findings of the Latin American project in a training seminar to be organized in Africa and suggested that a separate but similar exercise be launched in Africa, which would yield a comparative analysis. It was pointed out that funds for that specific project had been received from the Italian Government, which had indicated the region in which it should be carried out. Depending on the availability of similar funding support, that project could be replicated in the other regions. It was explained that the venue and objectives for the proposed African seminar were being reconsidered.

57. The Board acknowledged the importance of the gender training materials that had been produced for academic institutions and suggested that the North American experience should be combined and complemented with the experience of the other regions. The need for this wider dissemination and distribution was emphasized. Some Board members expressed an interest in obtaining copies of the computer models that had been developed to assist policy makers in understanding the relationship between certain sectoral policies and the advancement of women. In that connection, the representative of UNIFEM mentioned the strategy that UNIFEM was applying in distributing its materials, which INSTRAW might wish to adopt.

58. The Board members also expressed interest in obtaining a copy of the video that had been produced on basic gender issues, which was intended for an audience with little or no understanding of gender issues. They were informed that the video would be completed and made available by the end of April 1994 and that budgetary provisions had been made for distributing it widely. It would also be made available to focal points and Governments.

59. Turning to the training activities of INSTRAW, one Board member referred to the subregional workshop on statistics and indicators on women for francophone African countries, held in Morocco. She explained that its objectives had been fully achieved and that the workshop had provided recommendations for follow-up activities, particularly in relation to the regional preparatory conference to be held in Dakar and the World Conference on Women. She suggested that in the future, observers from other regions should be invited to exchange experiences, thereby enhancing the activity. She further suggested that similar seminars should be organized for the English-speaking African region, a suggestion strongly supported by the representative of ECA.

60. Concerning other activities, some Board members requested further information on the substantive participation of INSTRAW in the International Conference on Population and Development and the International Year of the Family (IYF). Concerning the International Conference, the Secretary of the Board explained that due to both financial and human resources constraints, although INSTRAW had been represented at the preparatory meetings no commitment had been made on substantive issues. As to IYF, the Secretary pointed out that since the Year was not to be marked by a major international conference but rather consisted of a series of activities at the national and regional levels, INSTRAW had prepared substantive inputs, such as (a) devoting the forthcoming issue of INSTRAW News to women and the family; (b) contributing to the information kit on IYF that had been prepared by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat; (c) preparing a concept paper on the family; and (d) participating in the regional conference for Latin America held in Bogotá, Colombia.

61. Several members of the Board stressed the need to strengthen the networking of INSTRAW in order to improve its visibility. It was suggested that awareness services be created in developing countries, particularly by providing INSTRAW publications.

62. The question of establishing more than one focal point in a country, which would reinforce the INSTRAW network with academic institutions, research centres and organizations involved in women's issues, was again reiterated. It was suggested that Board members submit lists of the institutions in their respective countries with whom the Institute might wish to develop a cooperative relationship.

## III. ROLE OF INSTRAW IN RESEARCH AND TRAINING - POST BEIJING

### 1. Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger

63. In reviewing the steps that had been taken concerning the INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger, the President referred to the following documents, which were before the Board for its information: "Note by the Secretary-General on the Task Force on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women" (E/1993/82); "Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council Decision 1993/235" (A/48/591); "Letter dated 11 October 1993 from the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic addressed to the Secretary-General" (A/C.3/48/6); "Note by the Secretariat on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women" (A/C.3/48/10); Economic and Social Council decision 1993/235 of 27 July 1993; and General Assembly resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993. She briefly summarized the various actions that had been taken since the Board had first been apprised, at its thirteenth session, of the proposal made by the special adviser and delegate of the Secretary-General concerning the reform of the economic and social sectors and the possible merging of INSTRAW and UNIFEM.

64. The representative of the Secretary-General reiterated the total commitment of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat to strengthening the effectiveness of women's programmes in order to make them more cohesive and to maintaining the distinct identity of INSTRAW. The Secretary-General was well aware of the contribution that the Dominican Republic had made to that effect and he wished to build on that contribution by ensuring the maximum and most efficient utilization of the local facilities. However, he could not ignore the desire of a number of Member States to see that the cooperation between INSTRAW and UNIFEM be enhanced. The Secretary-General was proceeding on the basis of a specific mandate that called for strengthening the identity of the Institute whilst placing it in the mainstream of development activities relevant to women. He referred to his visit to the host country on behalf of the Secretary-General in February 1994 for an exchange of views between the United Nations and the Dominican Government on the modalities of responding to the implementation of the proposal as called for in General Assembly resolution 48/111. He once again stressed that the mandates and identity of INSTRAW would be maintained, particularly the role of INSTRAW in research and training.

65. The Acting Director elaborated on the important role of research, training and information activities for the advancement of women. She elaborated on a number of forward-looking concepts, particularly in the context of the future need to implement the Platform for Action in the post-Beijing period. She stressed the need to strengthen cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly through joint programming, in order to achieve a greater visibility for and a broader awareness of issues relevant to the advancement of women.

66. The Director of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Secretariat gave a comprehensive overview of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger and explained to the Board with the help of

the relevant documents under consideration, the process that the proposal had undergone since the Board had first been apprised of it at its thirteenth session.

67. The representative of the host country pointed out that her Government had not been invited to participate in the Task Force created by the Secretary-General on the INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger and that no formal negotiations between the United Nations and the host Government had so far taken place. She pointed out that the failure of the United Nations to consult with her Government was a discourtesy to her country. The representative also pointed out that it had been suggested that the current INSTRAW facilities be used as a general training centre without the host country being consulted beforehand. She then drew the attention of the Board to the fact that the building had been donated to INSTRAW by the Dominican Republic.

68. The two members of the Board who had represented INSTRAW on the Task Force briefed the Board of the attitude they had encountered at the meeting of the Task Force. One of them recalled that during the thirteenth session of the Board, when it had first been informed of the proposed merger, the Board had received the impression that a decision had already been made to merge INSTRAW with UNIFEM and that the merger was a fait accompli, an impression which had been reinforced during the Task Force meeting. It seemed that the main purpose of the Task Force meeting had been to present the mechanism for integrating INSTRAW with UNIFEM. She pointed out that INSTRAW had prepared for the Task Force meeting all the relevant information on policy, administration and work programme, yet equivalent information on UNIFEM had not been made available. She concluded by saying that the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1993/235 (A/48/591) gave the impression that the research and training function was being weakened and that the INSTRAW programme would simply disappear.

69. The second Board member pointed out that the report of the Task Force had not been adequately reflected in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, which did not on the whole emphasize the importance of research and training. She proposed that the Board manifest its concern and suggested that it consider further elaborating the institutional options in order to ensure that issues concerning women were more effectively handled within the United Nations system.

70. One Board member expressed her concern at the timing of the proposed merger, in the light of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations. She pointed out that international institutional arrangements would be discussed at the Fourth World Conference on Women and raised the question whether the proposed merger might be postponed until 1995. She also sought clarification on the possibility of receiving core funding from the regular budget of the United Nations for the Institute, should the merger take place and should there be a shortfall of funds. She also inquired how the newly merged body would relate to other United Nations bodies dealing with women's issues. Another Board member pointed out that although information, communication and documentation were important aspects in programmes related to the advancement of women, no mention of them had been made in the current proposal.

71. The Acting Director of INSTRAW explained that the issue of timing and core funding would be decided by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. However, she underlined that the work programme of the Institute would continue to function normally, which had been reconfirmed by the representative of the Secretary-General.

72. The representatives of the regional commissions suggested that, in view of the excellent and fruitful cooperation they had enjoyed with INSTRAW, they would wish to maintain their present ex officio status in whatever new governance might be established for the new entity.

73. The Board suggested that the term "merger" should be replaced by the term "integration", which conformed better with the objective of the exercise.

74. Several Board members complained that they had not been sufficiently informed about the proposed merger and that a crucial meeting of the Board had been considerably shortened. The decision was taken to work in closed sessions during lunch breaks in order to reach a common stand on the recommendations to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

## 2. Role of INSTRAW in research and training - post Beijing

75. In considering the sub-item, the Board had before it the draft Platform for Action contained in the annex to resolution 38/10 of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1994/27, chap. I, resolution 10, annex), which the Commission had adopted at its thirty-eighth session.

76. The Acting Director introduced the draft Platform for Action and explained that it would be reconsidered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and would be adopted in its final form at the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in September 1995. She presented the 10 major areas of concern addressed in the draft Platform as well as their relationship with the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and corresponding strategic objectives. She emphasized that Board members should develop strategies for integrating INSTRAW research and training and information activities into the framework of the areas of concern reflected in the draft Platform. It was equally important for the Board to consider the draft Platform with a view to deciding how it might reflect the role of research and training.

77. The Board agreed that the issues addressed in the draft Platform conformed with the research and training activities already undertaken and currently being carried out by INSTRAW. The Board recommended that strategies be designed to present those outputs or results of the work of INSTRAW to the World Conference in a more consolidated manner.

78. In order to attain the strategic objectives outlined in the draft Platform for the critical areas of concern, the Board agreed that the need for research, training and information was crucial. The strategic objectives covered all levels of action - governmental, non-governmental, and multilateral - and at

each level fact-finding research and training were necessary in order to secure the strategic action needed to implement the Platform for Action.

79. The Board stressed that in future research, training and information activities, the Institute should continue to develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations, as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote gender-related analysis and programmes. It was important that INSTRAW contribute meaningfully to ongoing discussions of mainstream development issues, such as structural adjustment, human development, institution building and the transition to market economies, so as to contribute to conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches that would result in changes in the nature of the mainstream development process.

80. The representatives of UNDP and UNIFEM informed the Board of the strategies that they had developed in ensuring a more effective participation at the Conference, such as ensuring an effective distribution of publications, sponsoring workshops and discussion panels, and sharing findings on specific research initiatives.

## IV. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

81. In reviewing the proposed work programme and budget for the biennium, the Board had before it the following documents: "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995" (INSTRAW/BT/1994/R.3), and "Conceptual framework for the 1994-1995 work programme" (INSTRAW/BT/1994/BP.1).

82. The Secretary of the Board and the Director of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Secretariat introduced the two documents. The latter explained the general principles and resource and budget assumptions that had been taken into consideration while preparing the document. He underlined that Board members and the Acting Director had the prerogative to make changes and modifications within the budget ceiling of US$ 2,250,000 for 1994. He also pointed out that the programme budget would be reviewed by ACABQ, on the basis of which the report would be presented to the Economic and Social Council.

83. The Secretary of the Board introduced the conceptual framework for the 1994-1995 work programme and explained that it had been prepared in response to the recommendation of the Board at its thirteenth session. She pointed out that, due to the inability to convene the Strategic Planning Committee meeting in 1993, the drafts of those documents had been sent to Board members for their review and comments. The present work programme had therefore been put together taking into account their suggestions and recommendations.

84. Clarification was sought on the proposed abolition of four local-level posts, since, especially in view of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, more support services would be required. The Board granted the Acting Director the authority to review the need for those posts, according to the work programme to be adopted.

85. The Board indicated that adequate provision of travel allocations should be made for the Strategic Planning Committee and for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including attendance at the five regional preparatory conferences.

86. The Board agreed to the three major themes proposed for the work programme on research and training, which conformed to the central issues addressed in the Platform for Action.

87. A number of Board members acknowledged the importance of theme I, "Empowerment of women". They made some suggestions on how to improve the programme by expanding its focus to include women in politics and decision-making. However, they expressed the view that the research proposed on sustainable macroeconomic strategies in support of micro-level action should be more specific.

88. Considering that numerous seminars had been conducted on the empowerment of women, the Board suggested that in order to avoid possible duplication, a part of those funds could be transferred to activities geared to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

89. In that connection, the Board proposed that INSTRAW organize a panel on women in media. A suggestion was made to organize a workshop on women in media at the non-governmental organization forum in Beijing.

90. In referring to the expert group meeting on the empowerment of women, it was suggested that the funds could be used to organize a consultative meeting between INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Commission on the Status of Women, CEDAW and the regional commissions, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/111. The Board unanimously approved that change.

91. The Board also requested some clarification on the status and scope of the programme on gender impact analysis of credit projects. They expressed concern on its seemingly ambitious objectives and envisaged outputs, particularly the conduct of seven case-studies per region. Some of the Board members emphasized that there was a need to include in the approach or research methodology both issues on women's access to credit and the evaluation of the impact of different credit schemes on women and the family. It was pointed out that a number of non-governmental organizations, such as Trickle-up, had undertaken extensive work in that area and INSTRAW should utilize their field experience.

92. Taking into account all those comments and suggestions, the Acting Director indicated that the approach of the programme would be further examined and reformulated. She also acknowledged the suggestion of the representative from UNIFEM to prepare a state-of-the-art publication on the impact of and access to credit by women, which could be a substantial contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Hence, some adjustment in the use of allocated funds for the programme would be imminent.

93. One Board member expressed the view that there was a need to organize a seminar for the Arab region. The Acting Director and the Board supported that suggestion and pointed out the importance of organizing such a seminar together

with ECA and ESCWA, either before or immediately after the regional preparatory conference in Amman.

94. A Board member recommended that the syllabuses in the gender training portfolio be expanded to cover all the regions, using the work done by local researchers.

95. Several Board members suggested that the research project entitled "Promotion of women in agriculture in transitional eastern European countries" be expanded to include areas other than agriculture and not be limited to eastern Europe only. The alternative title "Women in economies in transition to market economies" was suggested. The Board supported that recommendation and the Acting Director pointed out that she would contact the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other donors to explore possible funding support. She also requested that the Board seek support from donor countries, since those countries in transition had never previously been recipients of such assistance.

96. The President highlighted the important linkage that existed between the empowerment of women and the consequences of structural adjustment. It was important that INSTRAW collaborate with UNDP in the development and preparation of the 1994 Human Development Report. She requested authorization from the Board to make provisions for possible contributions of INSTRAW to that publication.

97. A Board member suggested that every effort be made by the Institute to seek funds through external support and/or in-kind contributions for translating the gender training materials.

98. The representative of ECA informed the Board that ECA was organizing an encounter with media women to find a common way of portraying a better image of women in media; the meeting would be held before the regional preparatory meeting in Senegal. She pointed out that ECA was looking forward to collaborating with INSTRAW on that activity.

99. Concerning theme II, "Statistics and indicators on women", the representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat stressed the importance of using the term "gender" instead of the term "women" when referring to statistics and indicators. She underlined the significance of encouraging and supporting national initiatives in the production of short publications on statistics as well as indicators on gender issues. She also referred to the proposed development of the "how-to" training modules on gender statistics and informed the Board of the relevant initiatives undertaken by the Statistical Division, the Joint Consultative Group for Policy (JCGP) and other institutions working in that area, such as Statistics Sweden. She encouraged INSTRAW to establish close collaboration with those organizations in order to avoid duplication.

100. The Acting Director pointed out that INSTRAW was a pioneer in that area within the United Nations system and stressed the importance of developing training materials in an integrated manner. Moreover, she highlighted the need to further promote the results of such initiatives in such mainstream bodies as

the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians.

101. Under theme III, "Women, environment and sustainable development", the attention of the Board was brought to a request received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development of Namibia, requesting INSTRAW to organize a national training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation, in November 1994. The training seminar would be based on the INSTRAW training package on women, water supply and sanitation, and cooperation would be sought with the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat for the holding of the seminar. Furthermore, the Board was informed of the unique mandate of INSTRAW in water and energy as it related to policy coordination in the United Nations system, and of the need to allocate minimum funds for attendance at policy coordinating meetings.

102. The Board supported the training seminar in Namibia and gave authority to the Acting Director to reallocate funds from that theme both for the seminar and for attendance at the policy coordinating meetings on water and energy.

103. One Board member suggested that INSTRAW prepare a training package on women and sustainable development similar to the one on women and water.

104. The Board approved that suggestion and recommended that the training package include waste management, transportation, human settlements and other substantive areas not sufficiently explored. The need to cooperate with UNEP and the World Bank was highlighted.

105. Turning to the section on information, documentation and communication, Board members expressed their satisfaction with the various proposed programme activities.

106. The Board reiterated the need to prepare and present substantive publications at the Fourth World Conference on Women, including exhibits and public information materials (e.g., note cards).

107. The Board recommended that a special issue of INSTRAW News be devoted to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

108. In view of the possible integration of INSTRAW and UNIFEM and in the interest of saving funds, the Board took note of the suggestion made by the UNIFEM representative that possibilities for issuing co-publications, joint newsletters and translations of materials be explored.

109. One Board member suggested that the New York office be strengthened and the Board inquired about the sudden rise in the rent of the office in New York, which should be carefully looked into.

110. After having discussed the issue of databases within and outside the United Nations system, the Board agreed to reconsider the proposed updating of the computerized database system at a later stage.

111. The Board adopted the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 as amended. It granted the management of INSTRAW the flexibility to shift funds within the approved budget ceiling.

## V. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE

112. The Board approved the nominations to become focal points of INSTRAW received from the Government of Tunisia, on behalf of the Centre de recherche, de documentation et d'information sur la femme (CREDIF), and from the Government of Uruguay, on behalf of the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales del Departamento de Sociología, Universidad de Uruguay.

113. The Board discussed the schedule for the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting and determined its composition.

114. Two outgoing Board members expressed their satisfaction with the work accomplished by INSTRAW. They also expressed their continued support to the Institute and wished it success in its forthcoming research, training and information activities. They looked forward to collaborating with INSTRAW.

## VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION

115. At its sixth meeting, on 21 April 1994, the Board adopted the report on its fourteenth session (INSTRAW/BT/1994/R.4 and Add.1-3).

## VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening and duration of the session

116. The fourteenth session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW was held at the Institute's headquarters from 18 to 21 April 1994. The Board held six meetings.

117. The session was opened by Renata Siemienska, in her capacity as President of the Board. In welcoming the members of the Board, she noted that the session was taking place at a crucial moment for INSTRAW. She hoped that the deliberations would consider how its work could best be enhanced in the future. She counselled the Board that in the work of the Institute during the current session, it would be important to elaborate on a framework that could contribute towards the Platform for Action.

118. The representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ji Chaozhu, addressed the Board. He welcomed the new Acting Director and conveyed the Secretary-General's assurance that a high priority would continue to be given to women's issues, particularly with regard to development. He also indicated the Secretary-General's commitment to maintaining and strengthening the INSTRAW mandate. The Secretary-General had affirmed that women's issues should not be marginalized or compartmentalized but should be an integral part of the United Nations overall effort to foster development. In that connection, the Division for the

Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat had been moved to New York in order to establish a closer contact with the other entities of the Secretariat that dealt with development issues. The streamlining effort had focused on establishing more dynamic links between research- and action-oriented programmes. In that respect, the United Nations could greatly benefit from the INSTRAW input. In particular, the Secretary-General looked forward to the contribution that the Board in its current session could make to defining the role that INSTRAW should play in implementing the Platform for Action as well as to determining how it could better respond to the needs of women.

119. An opening statement was made by Jacqueline Malagón, Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic and ex officio member of the Board representing the host country. On behalf of her Government, she welcomed the Board and emphasized the importance that her Government attached to the issue of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Although her Government supported the Secretary-General's effort to streamline the United Nations in the interest of economy and efficiency, it felt that the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM must be examined carefully to see if it would in fact advance those ends. She referred to General Assembly resolution 48/111, which had requested ACABQ to report on the proposed merger and its consultations with her Government. She expressed her Government's wish that those consultations and the ACABQ recommendations should lead to a solution in the best interests of the Dominican Republic, the United Nations and above all the advancement of women. She emphasized that as one of three entities within the United Nations system responsible for the advancement of women, INSTRAW had a special role to play in undertaking research and development training materials that could contribute to international conferences. To fulfil that role, she indicated that INSTRAW needed the support of both Member States and the Secretariat. She hoped that that support would be forthcoming and that the next session of the Board would see a revitalized and strengthened INSTRAW. She assured the Board that her Government would do everything in its power to make that happen and to continue to serve as the host to INSTRAW.

120. The Acting Director of INSTRAW made a welcoming statement. She pointed out that INSTRAW was facing a crucial moment in its history. She referred to the series of important United Nations conferences to be held during the 1990s, all of which focused on the needs of human beings. In that context, it was necessary to ensure that women's concerns were fully addressed at those conferences. It was also important to recognize the essential role played by research and training in enabling women to meet the new challenges facing them. In conclusion, she felt confident that it would be possible to achieve that task and that the Board would be able to contribute to achieving that objective.

## B. Attendance

121. The following members of the Board attended the session: Ihsan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan), Fátima Benslimane Hassar (Morocco), Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri (Spain), Aida González Martínez (Mexico), Noelie Kangoye (Burkina Faso), Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh), Amara Pongsapich (Thailand), Els Postel-Coster (Netherlands), Gail Saunders (Bahamas), Renata Siemienska-Zochowska (Poland) and Kristin Tornes (Norway).

122. The following ex officio members of the Board also attended: the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services (representing the Secretary-General), representatives of ESCAP and ECA, the representative of the Dominican Republic, the host country of the Institute, and the Acting Director of the Institute.

123. The Director of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Secretariat attended the session.

124. A representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat also attended the session.

125. Representatives of UNDP and UNIFEM attended the session.

## C. Election of officers

126. At its first meeting, in accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Els Post-Coster (Netherlands)

Vice-President: Amara Pongsapich (Thailand)

Rapporteur: Ihsan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan)

## D. Agenda

127. At its 1st meeting, the Board proposed the inclusion of a sub-item "Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW/UNIFEM merger" to agenda item 5 of the provisional agenda "The role of INSTRAW in research and training post-Beijing". The Board adopted the following agenda as amended:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Election of officers.

4. Implementation of the work programme for 1993: progress report on the Institute.

5. The role of INSTRAW in research and training post-Beijing:

   (a) Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW/UNIFEM merger.

6. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

7. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute.

8. Adoption of the report of the session.

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